

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0281

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG/IEA, NO
SUBJ: IEA NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO LONG-TERM PROGRAM

REF: (A)STATE 1022 (B) OSLO 5648 18 DEC 65

SUMMARY: RAVNE ADVISED EMBASSY REPS ON JANUARY 16 THAT NORWAY HOPES EVENTUALLY TO ADHERE TO IEA LONG-TERM PROGRAM AND WILL MAKE POSITIVE STATEMENT AT JANUARY 29-30 IEA MEETING ON PROGRAM. DAVIGNON WILL REVIEW STATEMENT PRIOR TO MEETING. IT WILL STOP SHORT OF ADHERING TO PROGRAM NOS, AND RAVNE REITERATED NORWEGIAN POSITION THAT PROGRAM AS IT STANDS IS UNACCEPTABLE WITHOUT FURTHER COMMITMENT TO IT BY EEC AND ELIMINATION OF CONSUMPTION TAX OPTION. CHANGE OF NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTTHIS WEEK, REPORTS OF MINIMAL GERMAN AND JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR MSP, AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL FACTORS MAKE ANY CHANGE IN NORWEGIAN POSITION VERY DIFFICULT BEFORE JANUARY 29. AMBASSADOR WILL SEE FOREIGN MINISTER FYRDENLUND ASAP AND REQUESTS SUPPLEMENTARY POLITICAL ARGUMENTS ON IMPORTANCE OF SECURING FRENCH PARTICIPATION INAN EEC PROGRAM FOR USE WITH FRYDENLUND. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM AND E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR RAVNE, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY FOREIGN OIL POLICY IN THE FOREIGN
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MINISTRY, ON JANUARY 16 TO DISCUSS NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO

THE IEA LONG-TERM PROGRAM ALONG LINES REFTTEL. AMBASSADOR WILL RAISE ASAP ISSUE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND WHO IS EXTREMELY BUSY WITH THE CHANGE THIS WEEK IN NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. RAVNE SAID THAT DAVIGNON HAD ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTION OF ADHERENCE WITH HIM. RAVNE HAD AGREED THAT HE WOULD GO TO BRUSSELS BEFORE JAN 29-30 IEA MEETING AND REVIEW LONG-TERM PROGRAM WITH DAVIGNON. MAJOR OBSTACLES TO NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE WILL BE IDENTIFIED. RAVNE WILL BRING WITH HIM DRAFT NORWEGIAN STATEMENT ON LONG-TERM PROGRAM FOR USE AT IEA MEETING. STATEMENT WILL BE EXTREMELY POSITIVE BUT WILL STOP SHORT OF COMMITTING NORWAY TO ADHERENCE TO THE PROGRAM.

3. RAVNE REPEATED THAT HE WOULD NOT SEEK CHANGES IN CHAPTER V. MAIN NORWEGIAN DIFFICULTIES ARE WITH CHAPTER III, INCLUDING DEFINITION OF IMPORTED OIL, CONSUMPTION TAX, AND RELATION OF UNDERTAKING IN CHAPTER III TO THE GATT. THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE, HOWEVER, REMAINS EEC COMMITMENT TO CHAPTER III AND MSP AND EEC RESERVATIONS REGARDING IT WHICH MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES IN THE PROGRAM CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EEC. RAVNE STRESSED THAT WITHOUT FINAL ADOPTION OF THE MSP AND OTHER UNDERTAKINGS IN CHAPTER III AS WELL AS ELIMINATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX WHICH OBVIATED THE BENEFITS OF THE MSP, THE PROGRAM HAD NOTHING TO OFFER TO NORWAY, WAS UNBALANCED IN FAVOR OF IEA CONSUMER COUNTRIES, AND WOULD BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO SELL TO THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT.

4. RAVNE SAID THAT NORWAY WANTED TO ADHERE TO THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING SHORT OF DOING SO, PENDING EEC ACCEPTANCE WITHOUT RESERVATIONS OF CHAPTER III UNDERTAKINGS. DAVIGNON HAD SUGGESTED THAT NORWAY AGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE RESERVATION THAT FULL ADHERENCE WAS DEPENDENT ON ADOPTION OF AN EEC ENERGY PROGRAM SATISFACTORY TO NORWAY. RAVNE SAID THAT THIS PROCEDURE COULD CREATE REAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT AND JEOPARDIZE EVENTUAL NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE. HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR SOME SORT OF NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE IN INTEREST OF LEVERAGE

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WITH FRANCE, BUT SAID THIS WAS A TRULY POLITICAL DECISION WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO PARLIAMENT AND COULD UNDERMINE NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEA.

5. RAVNE REFERRED TO CABINET DECISION OF DECEMBER 18, 1975 NOT TO ADHERE TO LONG-TERM PROGRAM (SEE REF B). HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO A STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER

FRYDENLUND MADE IN PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY 7 IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM OPPONENTS OF NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEA IN WHICH FRYDENLUND STATED THAT THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM WAS TOO VAGUE AND UNCLEAR AND THAT NORWAY WOULD NOT ADHERE TO IT FOR THE MOMENT. (RAVNE SAID FRYDENLUND HAD SAID THIS WITHOUT CONSULTING HIM.) A CHANGE IN THE NORWEGIAN POSITION WOULD REQUIRE A CABINET DECISION AND WOULD BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED THIS WEEK, PREOCCUPATION WITH OTHER MATTERS, AND UNFAMILIARITY OF NEW MINISTER OF INDUSTRY WITH THE ISSUES. IN ADDITION, SOME EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS IN MEETING NORWEGIAN INTERESTS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN THE CHANGE IN THE NORWEGIAN POSITION TO PARLIAMENT. RAVNE'S FRANK ASSESSMENT WAS THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED TO MAKE A FORMAL POSITION ON ADHERENCE BEFORE THE JANUARY 29 MEETING, IT WAS LIKELY TO BE A NEGATIVE DECISION. THIS IN TURN WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO REVERSE THE DECISION.

6. RAVNE ALSO CITED THAT REPORT OF THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN BONN ON THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN WHICH GENSCHER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WAS AGAINST THE MSP BUT WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT BECAUSE OF THE EEC DECISION IN ROME. THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD GENSCHER THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR JAPAN TO IMPLEMENT AN MSP AND THAT JAPAN WOULD NOT DO SO. IT WAS CLEAR, RAVNE SAID, THAT THE COMMITMENT OF BOTH GERMANY AND JAPAN TO CHAPTER III PROVISIONS WAS MINIMAL. THIS WAS FURTHER ARGUMENT AGAINST NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM AT THIS TIME.

7. RAVNE SAID HE HOPED THAT NORWAY WOULD EVENTUALLY ADHERE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LONG-TERM PROGRAM, AGREED THAT NORWAY'S POSITION ON ADHERENCE COULD BE REVIEWED AT ANY TIME, BUT SAID THAT PUSHING THE MATTER TOO RAPIDLY MIGHT BE MORE HARMFUL THAN HELPFUL. DAVIGNON HAD INDICATED IT MIGHT TAKE THE EEC SIX MONTHS TO AGREE UPON AN ACCEPTABLE PROGRAM AND HE NOTED THAT THE SLT OF THE IEA ALSO HAD A JULY 1 DEADLINE FOR SOME OF ITS WORK. THUS SIX MONTHS APPEARED TO BE A REASONABLE TIME FRAME FOR NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE. MEANWHILE HE WOULD CONSULT ON JANUARY 20 WITH OTHER MINISTRIES ON IMMEDIATE LONG-TERM PROGRAM ISSUES.

8. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, I DO NOT EXPECT MY DEMARCHE WITH FRYDENLUND WILL ADVANCE MATTERS GREATLY. NORWEGIANS OBVIOUSLY CONSIDER ONLY REAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR ADHERENCE AT THIS TIME IS POLITICAL AND TO GET FRANCE

TO JOIN IN AN EFFECTIVE EEC PROGRAM. IT WOULD, THEREFORE,
BE HELPFUL FOR ME TO HAVE POLITICAL ARGUMENTATION FOR
SUCH A STEP TO USE WITH FRYDENLUND AND TO SUPPLEMENT
ARGUMENT IN REFTTEL A.
BYRNE

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